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## Monitor Newsletter November 13, 2006

Bowling Green State University

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## Gordon is this year's Master Teacher

The students have spoken, and Dr. Jeffrey Gordon, geography, is their choice as the 2006 Master Teacher. Because it is determined by students, the award is considered the highest among faculty honors.

Sponsored by the Student Alumni Connection, the award recognizes faculty who demonstrate special care for their students. Recipients are presented an engraved plaque and \$1,000.

Gordon's teaching is described as "interactive, honest and sincere." His pedagogical style reflects his belief that "the most important aspect of education at this time is to facilitate the changing face of teaching." Feeling that students can learn much from one another, he encourages their interaction—a way of learning that is quickly evolving from what he knew as a student, he says.

Infusing students with his enthusiasm for geography, Gordon is a professor who goes above and beyond what is expected, his nominators wrote, adding "he genuinely cares about us and our goals."

Gordon, who has taught at BGSU since 1980, is among modern geographers who are interested not just in mountains and maps, but in how people fill, use and occupy space. His wide-ranging interest in geography has taken him in some unusual directions. He has been quoted in the media for his study of rural mailboxes and what they reveal about the owners, for example. He has also studied flea markets and bumper stickers—part of the "cultural landscape."

Gordon earned his Ph.D. in geography from Syracuse University in 1978 and his master's degree in geography with a minor in anthropology from Pennsylvania State University in 1970. He received a bachelor's degree in geography with a minor in anthropology from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1967.

## 'Quiet leadership' earns Pauken Distinguished Service Award

In only eight years at BGSU, Dr. Patrick Pauken, chair of the educational administration and leadership studies department, has created a record of service to his college, the University and his students that has earned him campuswide respect and gratitude. In recognition of his contributions, Faculty Senate presented him the Distinguished Service Award.

Given at the annual Faculty Recognition Dinner Nov. 8, the award highlights the importance of the service of a dedicated faculty to the development and enhancement of the University. It includes an engraved plaque and \$1,000.

In his letter of nomination, Dr. Michael Zickar, psychology, called Pauken a "role model for all faculty members in his willingness to take on additional service responsibilities while maintaining a high level of productivity in teaching and research." Through his quiet leadership, he added, Pauken has excelled at completing many important tasks often avoided by others.

### Faculty Governance

Pauken has been a member of Faculty Senate for six years and has been parliamentarian since 2001. The parliamentarian's role is vital to the success of the chair in keeping meetings orderly and interpreting the finer points of the Academic Charter and Robert's Rules of Order.

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While the successful performance of parliamentarians likely goes unnoticed by most, Zickar observed, unsuccessful performance would be readily apparent to all. "Patrick has done a superb job helping chair after chair navigate through the complex rules of the University in a way that does not step on any fellow faculty egos."

In addition, Pauken has served on a number of Faculty Senate committees, chairing the Amendments and Bylaws and Professional Affairs committees and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Code of Ethics and Conduct. With both a law degree and a Ph.D. in educational administration, he brings a high level of expertise to these endeavors.

Pauken has also served on many other important University committees, such as the Provost's Task Force on Academic Freedom and the Academic Freedom Committee, the University Planning Council, the University Graduate Council and the Planning Committee for Accreditation Review. "In one way or another through his committee service, Patrick has influenced nearly every aspect of this complex University," Zickar wrote.

**Contributions to the learning environment**

In the College of Education and Human Development, Pauken has helped create a positive learning environment. As a member of the Curriculum Committee and the Teaching and Research Working Team, he has helped deal with pedagogical matters. "Most importantly, he has served in leadership positions when called upon by his colleagues," Zickar wrote. He has been chair and graduate coordinator of the Division of Educational Administration and Leadership Studies since 2005.

Graduate students often praise Pauken for his mentorship and, in the case of Nassim Abdi, who came from Tehran, Iran, for helping her get to the United States and to Bowling Green through his help with all the necessary paperwork.

**Building Relationships**

Pauken has worked diligently in a variety of capacities to help faculty and University members connect better with one another, and has participated in panels on campus on such topics as the Patriot Act and University professionalism.

In addition, he has made efforts at improving University relations with external constituencies. He has been on several trips to Columbus as part of Faculty Senate efforts to speak with legislators about the importance of higher education and BGSU's role in the state economy.

**Searching the stars: Layden earns Blinn Award for work with students**

It is a great achievement to make discoveries about the stars, but, for a teacher, it is perhaps an even greater achievement to make "stars" out of one's students.

That Dr. Andrew Layden, physics and astronomy, has done that so successfully is one reason he was chosen to receive the 2006 Elliott L. Blinn Award for Faculty-Undergraduate Basic Research/Creative Work. The award is given in memory of the late Dr. Elliott Blinn, professor of chemistry, who devoted his career to sharing with undergraduate students the excitement of the process of discovery.

Layden received \$1,000, and an additional \$4,000 has been transferred to his departmental account for continued support of undergraduate research.

In the eight years since he came to BGSU, Layden has included undergraduate students in his Variable Star Project, which has evolved into an ongoing student research program that has comprised nine undergraduate students, most for multiple years. "The quality and scope of his involvement with students and of their involvement in research exemplify our goals for faculty-student research collaboration," said Dr. John Laird, chair of the physics and astronomy department.

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Those students have gone on to achieve recognition and reward on their own, and have enthusiastically endorsed Layden's nomination for the Blinn Award in appreciation of his mentorship. To date, his students have presented three posters at American Astronomical Society national meetings and have been lead authors of two refereed publications, with more in progress.

Supported by NASA and the National Science Foundation, Layden's research seeks to advance the understanding of the size of the cosmos and the properties of various objects within it through measuring interstellar reddening and absorption. Like the redness we see at sunset as incoming sunlight passes through more atmosphere and is absorbed and scattered by particles of dust and pollution, so does starlight appear to redden as it passes through the fine mixture of gas and dust known as the interstellar medium. Using BGSU's .5-meter telescope and electronic camera, the project monitors the color changes and brightening of the stars as they pulsate. Calculating the results will help astronomers measure the distance between us and the older populations of stars like globular clusters, the Galactic Center and other galaxies within the Local Group.

To help conduct these observations and calculations, Layden has employed undergraduate students. "A cornerstone of my philosophy of education is that students learn better by doing," he says, "be it an inquiry-based activity in an introductory astronomy class or researching a topic and presenting their findings to the class in Recent Progress in Astronomy. The VSP (Variable Star Project) allows students to continue this process as an independent study course or a summer job. It allows students to experience the process of science directly, including gathering data, processing images and measuring star brightness, analyzing and interpreting their data and presenting their results to an interested audience. For some students, this provides a preview of a career in science, and helps them decide whether such a career is right for them."

Katherine Guldenschuh, who worked with Layden for more than two years, is now a second lieutenant in the Air Force Science Division and plans to pursue advanced study in astrophysics, "an endeavor for which Layden's mentorship prepared her well," according to Dr. Donald Nieman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Guldenschuh, who won the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship while working with Layden, wrote, "Dr. Layden always encouraged us to work hard and understand the projects we were working on. He could have saved a lot of time by just explaining to his students how to do what needed to get done. Despite his busy schedule, however, Dr. Layden always took the extra time to explain why we were doing something and made sure I had a full understanding of the work and the science behind it."

The impact on the students of working on the project is being manifested in various ways. Jeffrey Gregorsock, who graduated last year, is now a high school science teacher with a deeper understanding of his field. The experience of being involved firsthand in the VSP "has been a rare privilege that has given me a special insight into the very nature of scientific investigation," he says.

Curtis Bunner, who will travel to Kitts Peak Observatory near Tucson next summer to acquire more data for the VSP, will be able to use the experiences and the publications coming out of the project as he prepares to apply to graduate school in physics or astrophysics. Bunner wrote that Layden's "altruistic and patient mentoring" has expanded his knowledge and will "undoubtedly be instrumental in my success in the future."

Nieman said that Layden's work "exemplifies the best in undergraduate research: a cutting-edge scholar who gently challenges undergraduate students to pursue discovery at the highest level and has the patience and understanding to help them rise to the challenge."

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BGeX honoree hones students' critical thinking skills through writing

Dr. Donna Nelson-Beene, director of the General Studies Writing Program, is the inaugural winner of the BGeX Distinguished Teaching Award.

Presented at the Faculty Recognition Dinner Nov. 8, the new award recognizes a record of superlative teaching in a BGeXperience course, and the development or use of a major curriculum improvement involving the teaching of critical thinking about values in the BGeXperience Program. The award includes a \$1,000 prize.

Nelson-Beene has demonstrated "exemplary leadership in bringing values exploration and critical thinking about values into the General Studies Writing Program," said BGeXperience Director Dr. George Agich. Because written communication is so important in the area of values exploration, Nelson-Beene's support of the efforts of BGeXperience has contributed to the enhancement of the core curriculum and the expansion of critical thinking skills throughout the undergraduate program.

A BGSU faculty member since 1983, Nelson-Beene became director of General Studies Writing in 1991. Since 2004, she has redesigned General Studies Writing materials to reinforce the language and philosophies of BGeXperience, and this year collaborated with BGeXperience and UNIV 100 directors to pilot course linkages between BGeXperience, General Studies Writing and UNIV student-success courses.

Browne thanked for Mock Trial achievements

Dr. Neil Browne, Distinguished Teaching Professor of economics, received a special gift of appreciation at the Faculty Recognition Dinner Nov. 8 in honor of his work with the Mock Trial Team. Under his guidance, the team placed in the top 10 in the nation this past year.

In presenting the gift, Provost John Folkins hailed Browne's "important contribution to the academic environment at BGSU."

Some years back, Mock Trial had fallen on hard times, and the activity was not pursued with great vigor, Folkins related. Browne took over an activity that had been without strong leadership and, with much time and effort, moved it forward, despite not having the funding and support found on many campuses for Mock Trial.

"It is not unusual for some schools to have several teams and a tradition of accomplishment. In particular, the small liberal arts schools see this as an area where they can be competitive, and they work hard for success," Folkins said. "Given their alumni base, their funding is likely to be robust. To break into this kind of activity and to bring the BGSU program to national prominence is a substantial and important achievement.

"This was accomplished largely by Dr. Browne and the support of his wife, Dr. Nancy Kubasek (legal studies). The effort took substantial time to recruit students, to train the students, and to manage the travel arrangements needed for the team to attend invitations—to mention only a few. To be able to bring this activity to prominence in such a short time is astounding."

United Way exceeds goal, thanks to campus generosity

The campus last week celebrated its achievement in raising more than \$110,000 for this year's campaign for United Way including Northwest Ohio Community Shares.

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At a closing reception Nov. 6, names were drawn for the prizes donated to the campaign. Winning a Dell laptop computer was Andrew Wickiser, an equipment design engineer in the psychology department. Jeanne Langendorfer, Jerome Library, won an iPod Nano.

The total pledged and donated by University employees exceeded the campaign goal. Some departments came up with original ways to boost giving, such as the bursar's office, where employees raised \$440 by paying to be able to wear jeans to work.

Linda Dobb, executive vice president, thanked all who donated and praised the "small but powerful" organizing committee for its efforts.

"We should feel great about helping our community contribute to the larger community, particularly as the holiday season approaches," she said.

## Friday is deadline for health care, spending account forms

All full-time employees who are making changes to their health care plan, such as dropping or adding a dependent, or who have changed their name or marital status, are required to submit the necessary forms to Human Resources by 5 p.m. Friday (Nov. 17).

In addition, if you are setting up or renewing a spending account for health care or child care expenses (Section 125), you must submit a form each year.

The next deadline that will affect full-time employees is Dec. 15—the last date to file the Working Spouse Form. Any employee whose spouse works full time and has BGSU health insurance as his or her primary plan must file this form with Human Resources each year. The spouse's employer must also fill out part of the form, so be sure to allow enough time.

You can find all forms at [www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr) under the What's New section. Call 2-2112 if you have questions.

If you are not making changes to your coverage and your spouse does not have BGSU's plan as primary coverage, you do not need to submit a form.

## IN BRIEF

### Computer security among Tech Fair topics

Computer security, an ongoing concern in an online age, will be among the topics headlining the University's seventh annual Northwest Ohio Technology Fair, set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday (Nov. 15).

BGSU will welcome nearly 60 exhibitors to the free, public fair in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. Northwest Ohio high school students will also be on hand for the 11 a.m. announcement of winners of the fourth annual high school Web design contest.

Among the exhibitors new to this year's fair will be QIN Inc., a northeast Ohio company whose presentation, titled "Paradise or Parasite," will cover implementation of multiple safeguards when developing a secure yet accessible computer system.

In addition to manning a display table in the ballroom, QIN will give the presentation in a "break-away" session in 201A Union, adjacent to the ballroom. Indiana-based Matrix

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Integration LLC will also address security-related issues during a Web seminar about network access control. That "Webinar" is another of the break-away sessions, whose times will be posted on the Technology Fair Web site: [www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/studenttech/techfair](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/cio/studenttech/techfair).

Subjects of other sessions, also in 201A Union, include interactive, student response systems in the classroom—as presented by Youngstown-based Turning Technologies LLC—and online tutorials for more than 100 applications used by students and educators. The latter session will feature Atomic Learning Inc., a Little Falls, Minn., firm that provides the training.

Also exhibiting classroom technology at the fair will be vendors such as Duluth, Ga.-based Logical Choice Technologies and its "ACTIVclassroom," and Schoolhouse Electronics, a maker of presentation display products from Bluffton.

WBGU-PBS will project the break-away sessions into the ballroom, where campus radio station WBGU-FM will broadcast live during the fair.

Flash drives, as well as a Web camera and DVDs, will also be among the prizes awarded to winners of drawings during the fair.

## CALENDAR

Tuesday, Nov. 14

**Concert**, by Jazz Lab Band II, directed by Jeff Halsey, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

**Technology Fair**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Lenhart Grand Ballroom, Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

**Brown Bag Luncheon**, "The HPV Vaccine: You've Seen the Ads, Now Hear the Facts!" by Elayne Jacoby and Andrea Colcord, Student Health Service, noon-1 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

**Authors and Artists Reception**, including presentation of the Friend of the Library Award, 3:30-5 p.m., eighth floor, Jerome Library.

**Football** vs. Miami, 7:30 p.m., Doyt Perry Stadium.

**Charity Public Skate**, free admission with a canned food donation to benefit the BG Christian Food Pantry, 8-10 p.m., Ice Arena.

**Faculty Artist Series**, including world premiere of "Three Divine Aspects" by Christina Laberge, musical arts, performed by Andrew Pelletier, horn, and Laura Melton, piano, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

**Violence and Art Film Series**, "Sin City" (2005), directed by Frank Miller, Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino, 9 p.m., 204 Fine Arts Center.

Thursday, Nov. 16

**PCA/CITE Grant Review Workshop**, noon-4 p.m., 308 Union. Applications are due by noon Dec. 4 at 111 University Hall. For more information, call 2-7316 or email [pca@bgsu.edu](mailto:pca@bgsu.edu).

**Visiting Artist Talk**, by BGSU alumnus Chad Greene, computer graphic artist and senior technical director at Activision, 6 p.m., 221 Olscamp Hall.

**Visiting Writer Series Reading**, by Dr. Amy Newman, award-winning poet, author of *Order, or Disorder*, *Fall* and *Camera Lyrica*, 7:30 p.m., Prout Chapel.

**Concert**, by Jazz Lab Band I, directed by Russell Schmidt, and Student Jazz Combos, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Friday, Nov. 17

**Women's Research Network**, "The Intersection of Fat and Other Identities in Primetime Television Sitcoms," by Heather Surface, American culture studies, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Women's Center, 107 Hanna Hall.

**Hockey** vs. Ohio State, 7:05 p.m., Ice Arena.

**Concert**, by Collegiate Chorale, directed by William Skoog, and Wind Symphony, directed by Bruce Moss, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

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Saturday, Nov. 18

**Art Exhibition Opening**, Robert "Bud" Hurlstone Commemorative Exhibition, 5-7 p.m., Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Hockey vs. Ohio State, 7:05 p.m., Ice Arena. **Concert**, Concert Band, directed by Carol Hayward, and University Band, directed by Kenneth Thompson, 8 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Sunday, Nov. 19

**Men's Basketball** vs. Furman, 2 p.m., Anderson Arena. **Concert**, "Sounds of the Stadium," by the Falcon Marching Band, directed by Carol Hayward, 3 p.m., Kobacker Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens and \$8 for other adults. To order, call 2-8171.

Monday, Nov. 20

**Music at the Forefront Series**, by Swiss saxophonist Lars Mlekusch, professor at Vienna University and the University of Music in Basel, Switzerland, 8 p.m., Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center. Sponsored by the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music.

Continuing Events  
Through Nov. 17

**Art Exhibition**, "Hands Dancing," works by artists from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, in the Arts Village, Compton Hall, Kreischer Quadrangle. Hours are 2:30-6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday or by special request.

Through Nov. 19

**Art Exhibition**, paintings by Michael Arrigo, art, Kennedy Green Room, Moore Musi-

cal Arts Center. Hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Through Nov. 19

**Art Exhibitions**, "MEME.GARDEN," by Mary Flanagan and Daniel C. Howe, and "Membranes-Margins-Disruptions," by Joan Livingstone, Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays.

Through Nov. 22

**Planetarium Show**, "Once in a Blue Moon," 8 p.m. Tuesday and Friday and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, BGSU Planetarium, 112 Physical Sciences Lab Building. \$1 donation suggested. Stargazing follows planetarium show on Fridays and Sundays if weather permits.

Nov. 13-Dec. 1

**Art Exhibition**, "Student Prints Exhibition," Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

Through Dec. 2

**Art Exhibition**, "Reflections through Print: A Chapman Community Service Learning Project," Union Art Galleries. Exhibition hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays.

Nov. 19-Jan. 18

**Art Exhibition**, Robert "Bud" Hurlstone Commemorative Exhibition, Willard Wankelman Gallery, Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sundays. The gallery will be closed Nov. 22-27 for Thanksgiving break and Dec. 15-Jan. 8 for winter recess.

## JOB POSTINGS

### FACULTY

**Accounting and Management Information Systems**. Visiting/Assistant/Associate/Full Professor. Call Sachi Sakthivel, 2-8273. Deadline: Dec. 15.

**Visual Communication and Technology Education**. Chair (Associate or Full Profes-

sor). Call Donna Trautman, 2-7613. Deadline: Jan. 3.

**School of Teaching and Learning**. Assistant Professor. Call Rosalind Hammond, 2-7320. Deadline: Jan. 8.

**School of Art**. Instructor. Call Janet Ballweg, 2-2786. Deadline: Jan. 20.



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**Theatre and Film.** Instructor. Call Michael Ellison, 2-2222. Deadline: Jan. 20.

International Hires-Labor Postings

<http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=facinfohires>

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions. Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/>.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form

and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

**CLASSIFIED**

On-campus classified:

[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU\\_only/page11151.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html)

Off-campus classified:

[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl\\_staff/page11145.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html)

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm\\_staff/page11137.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html)

**OBITUARY**

**Gertrude Brumbaugh**, 92, died Nov. 5 in North Baltimore. She retired from the University in 1981 as a custodial supervisor.

**BGSU**